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point, and formed an ample collection of prints and original drawings, he spent three years in travelling in England, Flanders, Holland, part of Germany, and Italy, accompanied by artists, who made drawings under his own eye, of every thing he thought necessary for his purpose; and in 1780, fixed his abode at Rome. There he composed his work, and there all the plates have been finished. It is to be published in 24 parts, making 6 vols. folio. The price of each part 30 francs, (1*l.* 5s) or on vellum paper 60. francs. These will contain 73 plates of architecture, 48 of sculpture, and 204 of painting. The subjects will exceed 1400, of which upwards of 700 have never been published. The first plate of each series will exhibit specimens of ancient art; and the last, specimens of modern; by way of comparison. A part was to appear every month or six weeks. The first three parts of this work are already imported by De Boffe, London, who sells them to subscribers at £2. 2s. and £4. 4s. each part.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

On Artificial Meadows, and the Use of plaster of Paris, or Gypsum, as a manure.

IN the proceedings of the Society of Agriculture of the department of the Seine, the following observations occur: they may afford useful hints to our experimental farmers. We have not heard of gypsum being tried as a manure in this country, yet the experiment may deserve a trial, as gypsum, or alabaster, is found in several parts of the county of Antrim, especially in the hills near Belfast. Some years ago it was found at Mullicarton Hill, in the parish of Magheragall, in the vicinity of Lisburn.

The French Report thus proceeds:

We find under the head of artificial meadows, that in 1789, there was not a single artificial meadow; and yet such has been the rapidity with which they have been introduced, that in 1808, there were no fewer than 390 in the department of the Upper Saône alone. In Champagne, until lately, clover, saintfoil, and lucern, were never heard of: in the department of Gard, white and green crops are recurred to alternately, and for this purpose, artificial meadows are used instead of fallows. In the departments of Isere and Drome, the beneficial effects of artificial meadows have been obvious to every one, according to the account of the Senator Count Dedelay d'Agier more especially since the introduction of plaster as a manure. Perrin Dulac, sub-prefect of Sancerre, thus expresses himself on that subject: "I am not afraid to assert," says he, "that if a new Epimenides, after a sleep of forty years, were to cast his eyes on these countries, he would neither be able to recognize men or living creatures, or even the soil itself. Anterior to that epoch, there was no other manure than the dung of animals, no artificial meadows, no canals for the purpose of irrigation. The houses appertaining to the cultivators were so many huts, where the labourers

mingled with their cattle, took shelter from the rigours of the season.

The instruments for the purpose of agriculture were rough and unshapely, while their enormous weight was such, that animals badly fed, were almost unable to drag them alone. One and some times two years of fallow generally succeeded to a harvest, which was far from being abundant. Few men of any information then resided in the country; and those whose education proved superior to that of the vulgar, would have been ashamed to inhabit it, or to employ their knowledge for its melioration. Since that period what an astonishing difference! By means of plaster, the most powerful mineral compost known at this period, the artificial meadows have become more abundant than the natural ones; the canals for the purpose of watering the latter, carry fertility every where, or at least so far as they can be introduced. The country itself possesses a greater number of houses, and they too of a better quality, and more commodious in respect to their structure and arrangements: the animals are more vigorous, because better fed; the instruments of agriculture have become more perfect, and fallows are no longer known. In short, men of distinguished talents preside over their own agricultural experiments, and instruct the people, by means of new processes, directed to their proper objects with equal care and economy. Such then is the difference between the ancient and present state of agriculture in the department of the Isere.

This happy metamorphosis originated with the discovery made by M. Moyer, relative to the qualities of plaster employed as a manure.

"The numerous quarries with which Dauphine abounds, will soon enable the principal proprietors to derive similar advantages; and the benefit resulting from the employment of their plaster, will soon surpass all their expectations. It is to the cultivation of artificial meadows in particular, that this compost ought to be applied; its effects in respect to them are such indeed, that they may be considered as marvellous. The number of animals is every where augmented, in the express ratio of the quantity of fodder, and the necessary consequence of the increase of the former, is an abundance of manure; which is the true source of all the grand results of agriculture. It is certain, that several communes at this day, feed ten times as many animals as before the discovery of plaster. Hence we have an increase of both produce and population; an increase so great, that on looking back to ancient calculations, one is tempted to doubt their authenticity, when compared with new ones."

Observations.—Unhappily the two nations are at war with each other, but the peaceable cultivators of the fields, may rejoice in the others mutual prosperity, without being themselves impoverished, for thus the arts of peace differ from the destructive energies of war. When will nations learn, that their greatest advantages are derived from peace! We, in the mean time, may honourably profit by the example of our neighbours, and we trust a similar account may be justly given of our improvements in agriculture, within the last thirty years. Yet much remains to be done, and probably it might be worth attention to make trial of gypsum as a manure, in the places contigious to the quarries where it is found. In America, it has been tried, and great praises have been bestowed on its good qualities as a manure.

Some allege it acts mechanically, by pulverizing the soil. Others assert its efficacy, by promoting vegetation by the high excitement it affords.

On Hay-making in general, and particularly in wet weather. By Mr. James Milner, of Scortan, near Catterick, in Yorkshire.

THE various treatises that are extant on this subject, seem to be written by gentlemen farmers, who have not had sufficient manual practice in the art, or by practical farmers, who are in general deficient in writing in a clear and scientific manner on the subject, though very conversant and knowing in practice.

As I have had very extensive practice for near fifty years in the art of hay-making, and have paid great attention to the various methods made use of in all the northern counties, in some of the midland ones, and also those near the metropolis, I may lay a claim at least to experience resulting from a variety of observations, trials, and comparisons.

I shall now proceed to give an account of hay-making as it is practised in Wensley Dale, a valley situated about fifteen miles south-west of Richmond, Yorkshire, nearly twenty miles in length, and five or six on an average in breadth, where the soil for pasture and meadows is extremely rich; land there fifty years since let at two pounds a statute acre, though far from any good market town.

Respecting the cutting of grass, the method is nearly the same throughout Great Britain; but good practical farmers prefer cutting it very low rather than highish, because they say it vegetates much sooner and grows much quicker, after low-cut grass than high-cut; the crops therefore of both the hay and after-grass will be greater. The day after it is cut in Wensley Dale it is strewed with the hands in such a regular and even manner, that no sops or lumps of grass appear on the surface. Neither forks nor rakes are used in this part of the work, except where the grass is very light indeed. This method requires industry and care, but when it is well executed the hay is half won. The next process, the day after, if the weather be fine, is to turn it with the rake head, in a very neat and regular order. The day after, if the weather be fine, they put it into hand, or lap cocks. One raker, man or woman, for both are expert at the business, goes before a cocker; each cocker takes up about ten or twelve pounds weight of hay, shakes it up very lightly, then puts one hand a little under it, and the other on the side of it, takes it up and sets it down again gently where it is clean-raked, in a neat regular row, leaving an aperture or hole about the middle in the side of the cock, so as to admit air in case of wet weather; always making them even and smooth at the top. Cocks made well in this manner, will, on account of their lightness and smoothness, certainly repel the rain, and throw it off better than any large cocks, heaped up carelessly and hastily, as they generally are, with the rake or the fork; besides, in wet weather they dry considerably sooner, on account of their lightness and good shape, and will stand better than larger made cocks, even in windy weather. This seems rather parodoxical, but it is a certain fact: for when the wind takes hold of a larger, badly made cock, it will sometimes hurl it into the air, and perhaps carry it into another person's premises, whereas the small, well made lap, or hand-cock, remains in security, receiving very little damage, though it had stood the blasts